

ABSTRACT

In a photo detection arrangement, the current through a detector 10 is sensed by a series resistor R_s and amplified and amplified at 21. The output of the amplifier is compared with a reference voltage 23, which is chosen to correspond to an overload input applied to the detector. When the comparator 22 triggers, a latch 24 is set, which controls a switch 25 to remove the supply voltage to the detector applied to the detector by power amplifier 14. In this way, protection is afforded to the detector 10 without recourse to a high value series resistor. Moreover, the latch provides an output to demonstrate that an overload has occurred.